29- November - 2013

Short note on the Africa RISING Ethiopia partners meeting

**Attendees**

Peter Thorne (ILRI\Africa RISING), Kindu Mekonnen(ILRI\Africa RISING), Simret Yasabu(ILRI\Africa RISING), Eliud Birachi (CIAT), Aster Gebrekirstos (ICRAF), Seid Ahmed Kemal (ICARDA), Jane Wamatu (ICARDA) ,Beth Cullen (ILRI), Zelalem Lema (ILRI), Britta Kowalski (CIP), Wellington Jogo(CIP)

**Agendas**

1. Institutions progress update
2. Discussion on establishment of innovation platforms concept note
3. Institutional plans for the next few months

**Agenda 1:** Institutions progress update

**CIP**

* Mid-season field days were conducted successfully to evaluate potato, faba bean and wheat improved varieties and management practices
* Wheat harvest has already been started
* Construction of Diffuse Light Stores (DLS) for potato is under way at household level

**ICARDA**

* Work focusing on livestock and food legumes part
* Expanded the livestock work in Sinana
* Scaling up of Faba beans , chickpeas and lentils
* Training was give to 500 farmers
* Farmers also participated on seed production
* 2 tons of faba beans and 2-4 tons of chickpeas has been distributed
* Field days were done in four districts where by policy makers, researchers also took part
* For season two training was given to 241 famers on seed production
* 1.9 tons of chickpeas and lentils were distributed
* In Sinana the livestock barn is ready for conducting feeding trials
* FEAST and TecFit training were given for all the Africa RISING site coordinators and other national partners – they will do assessment in December

**CIAT**

* Completed value chain mapping survey work
* Identified key actors for 3 crop and 3 livestock enterprises at each AR site
* Organized review and information sharing meeting in Addis Ababa

**ICRAF**

* Produced a report on innovation platforms
* Local knowledge assessment reports will soon be finalized
* Seed and seedling system value chain will also be finalized
* Developed technology inventory concept note

**IWMI**

* 18 water pumps (tridle and hand pumps ) were distributed to those farmer who have shall wells
* Discussion is undergoing with farmers and experts what high value crops to grow with the water

**ILRI**

* Plant samples are collected and anlysed in the lab for trade off analysis study ( local and improved faba bean growing practices) Facilitated project review and planning meeting, market and value chain team meeting, field days in different AR sites, USAID team visit in SNNPR, and others

**Agenda 2 : Discussion on innovation platform concept note**

Beth Cullen presented the concept note of the innovation platform for Africa RISING project in the Ethiopian highlands. She mentioned that previous reports from PCA and ICRAF were reviewed and used as sources of information to prepare the concept note. The experiences from the NBDC were also taken into consideration. The concept note gives an overview, key steps in IP establishment and other activities.

Key points to be considered

* Make sure that farmers are well represented
* Suggest to train the site coordinators
* Identify research topics on IP itself
* Identify who will be part of the research team, technical team…
* Consider age and gender representation

**Agenda3 : Institutional plans for the next few months**

CIP

* Work on addressing seed bottle necks
* Increase more potato seed for the belg season, and other seeds (wheat, faba beans and barley for the main season)
* Expanding capacity building for model farmers

ICARDA

* plan to have a field days in December and January
* evaluation of legumes for AR regions

ICRAF

* Finalizing various reports

CIAT

* Do a rapid assessments of what the actors are doing /plans on the six commodities identified

AOB:

* Post update on yammer
* Send calendar updated for Simret
* Simret to send a scheduled monthly meeting date and time